

Appl. No.: 10/723,956
Reply to Final Office Action of: August 10, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 are pending in the application. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9, 11-14, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boss, et al., (U.S. 5,024,720) in view of Liebeke (WO 02/080643 A1). The Examiner asserts that Boss, et al., discloses the features of claim 1 except for a teaching of a ring having finely spaced lines less than the pitch of the component-carrying tape and relies upon Liebeke for a teaching of that element.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the elements of cancelled claim 11, specifically that the feed sprocket has a number of teeth thereon and that the line spacing of the second ring is substantially greater than the number of teeth on the feed sprocket. While Boss, et al., teaches teeth 48 on a peripheral gear rim of a drive wheel along with markings constituted by apertures 50 also located on the drive wheel, it does not teach nor suggest a feed sprocket having a number of teeth and an encoder disc having first and second rings of lines with the relationship between the line spacing and the teeth on the feed sprocket as recited in claim 1. While the Examiner may contend that one ring of lines of the claim read upon the teeth 48 of Boss, et al., and the second line read upon the apertures 50 of Boss, et al., the Examiner has not pointed to any element in addition to those two which constitute the teeth of the feed sprocket recited in claim 1. The Applicant contends that Boss, et al., reference only teaches two of these three claimed elements namely teeth on the feed sprocket, a first ring of the encoder, and a second ring of the encoder.

Likewise, Liebeke only shows two elements, namely teeth 8 and a single ring 13. Neither of these references either separately or combined teach or suggest the combination of a feed

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sprocket having a number of teeth, a first ring of lines having a line spacing corresponding to the pitch of the component carrying tape, and a second ring having a line spacing less than the pitch of the component carrying tape and substantially greater than the number of teeth on the feed sprocket. The Applicant therefore contends that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* showing of obviousness with respect to previously presented claim 11. Therefore claim 1 as amended to include the elements of cancelled claim 11 is non-obvious over the references cited by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9, 12-14, and 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Cancellation of claim 11 necessitated amendment to claims 12 and 19 to depend from amended claim 1 which now includes the elements of cancelled claim 11.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication of allowable subject matter in claim 21.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



Salvatore Anastasi
Registration No. 39,090
Attorney for Applicant
Phone: 610-722-3899
Facsimile: 610-889-3696

PTO Customer No.: 29450